

Message Text

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 1960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA PARM TECH KS

SUBJECT: ROK/IAEA/France TRILATERAL SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT

REF: IAEA VIENNA 1868

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL, WE HAVE NOW LEARNED THAT THERE IS AN UNDERLYING BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ROK AND FRANCE (EXCHANGE OF LETTERS) PROVIDING, IN VERY GENERAL TERMS, "INTER ALIA", FOR FRENCH SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH ITEMS ARE TO BE SUBJECT TO "SAFEGUARDS".

2. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT FRENCH HAVE NOW SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED AGENCY TO DRAFT PROVISION FOR INCLUSION IN TRI-LATERAL RELATING TO TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FOR REPROCESSING AND FUEL FABRICATION PLANTS, WHICH WOULD BE INTENDED TO ASSURE THAT IAEA SAFEGUARDS WOULD APPLY TO ANY SUBSEQUENT PLANTS THAT KOREANS MIGHT CONSTRUCT BASED ON TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED IN PLANTS TO BE SUPPLIED BY FRENCH. THIS WOULD BE AN INNOVATION FOR AGENCY SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS, AND FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, A MOST DESIRABLE ONE. WE WILL FOLLOW MATTER CLOSELY AND REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

3. WE ALSO HAVE LEARNED THAT FRENCH ARE NEGOTIATING AN
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ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH AGENCY, SIMILAR TO

UK/IAEA SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT CONCLUDED YEAR OR TWO AGO TO
COVER SPANISH ZORITA REACTOR FUEL REPROCESSED IN UK, WHICH,
HOWEVER, WAS DRAFTED IN GENERAL TERMS TO COVER SIMILAR CASES
IN FUTURE. WE ARE NOT SURE RE UNDERLYING REASON FOR
FRENCH DESIRE FOR SIMILAR AGREEMENT, BUT WE ASSUME THEY
MAY BE ANTICIPATING SOME REPROCESSING BUSINESS OF THEIR OWN
INVOLVING IAEA SAFEGUARDED MATERIAL. THIS, OF COURSE,
RAISES SOME INTERESTING QUESTIONS VIS-A-VIS EURATOM SAFEGUARDS.
PORTER

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